



EHR Incentive Programs

A program of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

News Updates

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On October 6, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the [final rule](#) with comment for the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs. To keep you informed of changes to the programs and how to participate in 2015, CMS has also released three new FAQs providing clarification on how to attest to certain measures for health information exchange, patient electronic access, and other objectives that require patient action.

FAQ 12817

Question: For the Health Information Exchange objective for meaningful use in 2015 through 2017, may an eligible professional (EP), eligible hospital or critical access hospital (CAH) count a transition of care or referral in its numerator for the measure if they electronically create and send a summary of care document using their CEHRT to a third party organization that plays a role in determining the next provider of care and ultimately delivers the summary of care document?

Answer: Yes. An EP, eligible hospital or CAH may count transmissions in this measure's numerator when a third party organization is involved so long as:

- The summary of care document is created using certified EHR technology (CEHRT);
- The summary of care document is transmitted electronically by the EP, eligible hospital or CAH to the third party organization...[Read the full FAQ](#)

FAQ 12821

Question: If multiple eligible professionals or eligible hospitals contribute information to a shared portal or to a patient's online personal health record (PHR), how is it counted for meaningful use when the patient accesses the information on the portal or PHR?

This answer is relevant to the following meaningful use objectives: Patient Specific Education and Patient Electronic Access measure 2.

Answer: If an eligible professional sees a patient during the EHR reporting period, the eligible professional may count the patient in the numerator for this measure if the patient (or an authorized representative) views online, downloads, or transmits to a third party any of the health information from the shared portal or online PHR. The same would apply for an eligible hospital or CAH if a patient is discharged during the EHR reporting period. If patient-specific education resources are provided electronically, it may be counted in the numerator for any provider within the group sharing the CEHRT who has contributed information to the patient's record if that provider has the patient in their denominator for the EHR reporting period. The respective eligible professional, eligible hospital, or CAH must have contributed at least some of the information identified in the Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Electronic Health Record Incentive Program - Stage 3 and Modifications to Meaningful Use in 2015 Through 2017 final rule (80 FR 62807 through 62809) to the shared portal or online PHR for the patient. However, the respective provider need not have contributed the particular information that was viewed, downloaded, or transmitted by the patient. ... [Read the full FAQ](#).

FAQ 12825

Question: In calculating the meaningful use objectives requiring patient action, if a patient sends a message or accesses his/her health information made available by their eligible professional (EP), can the other EPs in the practice get credit for the patient's action in meeting the objectives?

Answer: Yes. This transitive effect applies to the Secure Electronic Messaging objective, the 2nd measure of the Patient Electronic Access (View, Download and Transmit) objective, and the Patient Specific Education objective.

If a patient sends a secure message about a clinical or health related subject to the group practice of their EP, that patient can be counted in the numerator of the Secure Electronic Messaging measure for any of the EPs at the group practice who use the same certified electronic health records technology (CEHRT) that saw and patient during their EHR reporting period.

Similarly, if a patient views, downloads or transmits to a third party the health information that was made available online by their EP, that patient can be counted in the numerator of the 2nd Patient Electronic Access measure for any of the EPs in that group practice who use the same CEHRT and saw that patient during their EHR reporting period.

If patient-specific education resources are provided electronically, it may be counted in the numerator for any provider within the group sharing the CEHRT who has contributed information to the patient's record if that provider has the patient in their denominator for the EHR reporting period. ...[Read the full FAQ](#).

For more information on accurately calculating the numerator for measures, please visit [FAQ 8231](#).

To read the full FAQs visit the [FAQ](#) page of the [CMS Website](#).



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